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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/932,228 09/17/97 SCHUEGRAF

K MICRON.009DV

EXAMINER

MM42/0303

KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON AND BEAR
620 NEWPORT CENTER DRIVE
SIXTEENTH FLOOR
NEWPORT BEACH CA 92660-8016

VIT-11
ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2811
DATE MAILED:

03/03/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/932,228

Applicant(s)

SCHUEGRAF ET AL.

Examiner

HUNG K. VU

Group Art Unit

2811



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 29, 1999

☒ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 11-16 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 11-16 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 9

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bose et al. (PN 5,492,859) in view of Ushiwata (JP 153717, of record).

Bose et al. discloses an isolation structure in a semiconductor substrate comprising,

a recessed portion (20,21,22) formed therein in the semiconductor substrate (10);

a dielectric material (14) filling the recessed portion;

wherein the recessed portion comprises a trench structure having a ratio of height to width of less than 2:1;

a barrier layer (13,18) disposed between the recessed portion of the semiconductor substrate and the dielectric material. Note Figures 1-5 of Bose et al..

Bose discloses the dielectric material comprising silicon oxide. Bose does not disclose the dielectric material comprising a halide-doped silicon oxide. However, Ushiwata discloses an element separating insulation film made of oxide film (16) containing fluorine atoms (dielectric constant lower than 3.9). Note Figures 2-4 of Ushiwata. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the trench of Bose et

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al.'s having the dielectric material comprising a halide-doped silicon oxide, such as taught by Ushiwata in order to increase the operational speed of the elements.

With regard to claim 13, Bose et al. and Ushiwata disclose all of the claimed limitations except a depth of less than 200 nm. However, it would have been obvious to the one in the art at the time the invention was made to form a trench having a depth of less than 200 nm because such structure is well-known in the art in order to decrease the void formation and to increase the surface planarity of the final trench structure. Note Swan et al. (PN 5,356,838, of record) is cited to support the well-known position

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

3. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

4. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technology Center (TC) 2800 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to TC 2800 via the TC 2800 Fax center located in Crystal Plaza 4, room 4-C23. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The Group 2811 Fax Center number is (703) 308-7722 and 308-7724. The Group 2811 Fax Center is to be used only for papers related to Group 2811 applications.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or any earlier communication from the Examiner should be directed to **Hung K. Vu** whose telephone number is **(703) 308-4079**. The Examiner is in the Office generally between the hours of 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Eastern Standard Time) Monday through Friday.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the **Technology Center Receptionists** whose telephone number is **308-0956**.

Vu

February 24, 2000

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "T" at the beginning.

Tom Thomas
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800